

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT
TO THE
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

February 10, 2009

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – January 14th

A copy of the January 14th Board meeting minutes has been included in the Board folder for review and comment. I am respectfully asking for approval and adoption of these meeting minutes by Board members.

Agency Managers' Meeting

On February 5th, the Agency Managers held a meeting at the offices of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) in Los Angeles. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Proposed Yuma Desalting Plant Pilot Project, the naming of the Drop-2 Reservoir facility along the All-American Canal, the status of the binational process addressing Mexican environmental and water needs, and the current status of Basin states issues.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

As of February 1, 2009, storage in the major Upper Basin reservoirs decreased by 457,500 acre-feet and storage in the Lower Basin reservoirs increased by 135,300 acre-feet during January 2009. Total System active storage as of February 2nd was 32.998 million acre-feet (maf), or 55 percent of capacity, which is 1.627 maf more than one year ago (Upper Basin reservoirs increased by 2.090 maf and Lower Basin reservoirs decreased 0.463 maf).

January releases from Hoover, Davis, and Parker Dams averaged 12,050, 10,650, and 6,160 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. Planned releases from those three dams for the month of February 2009, are 12,100, 11,800, and 8,000 cfs, respectively. The February releases represent those needed to meet downstream water requirements including those caused by reduced operation of Senator Wash Reservoir.

As of February 5th, taking into account both measured and unmeasured return flows, the Lower Division states' consumptive use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2008, as forecasted by Reclamation, totals 7.549 maf and is described as follows: Arizona, 2.777 maf; California, 4.502 maf; and Nevada, 0.269 maf. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) will divert

1.562 maf, of which 0.214 maf are planned to be delivered to the Arizona Water Bank. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will use about 0.906 maf, which is 193,000 acre-feet more than its 2007 use of mainstream water.

The preliminary end-of-year estimate by the Board staff for 2008 California agricultural consumptive use of Colorado River water under the first three priorities and the sixth priority of the 1931 *California Seven Party Agreement* is 3.604 maf. This estimate is based on the collective use, through December 2008, by the Palo Verde Irrigation District, the Yuma Project-Reservation Division (YPRD), the Imperial Irrigation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District. Figure 1, found at the end of this month's Executive Director's Report, depicts the historic projected end-of-year agricultural use for the year.

Colorado River Operations

Joint U.S. and Mexico Declaration on Colorado River Issues

On January 13th, now former Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and Mexican Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan issued a joint declaration associated with Colorado River issues of interest to both countries. The joint declaration addresses the current drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin, the water supply needs of the two countries, and acknowledges the desire to continue the current binational negotiating process. Additionally, the joint declaration urges the International Boundary and Water Commission staff from both countries to work with all interested stakeholders in the development and implementation of cooperative and innovative measures that are consistent with the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty and meet the continuing needs of both nations. A copy of the joint declaration has been included in the Board folder.

Board Response Letter to CalEPA Regarding Colorado River Management and Negotiations

Based upon the request of the Board at the January 14th meeting, Board staff have finalized and sent a response letter to Secretary Linda Adams of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) regarding CalEPA's memorandum of understanding and proposed action plan prepared in consultation with the Mexican Environmental Ministry. In its letter, the Board raised specific concerns about the potential conflict with ongoing Colorado River operations, management, and the current binational negotiating processes. Also, the Board provided some specific editorial comments associated with several elements of the CalEPA proposed action plan. A copy of the Board's letter to CalEPA has been included in the Board folder.

Border Governor's Conference Water Work Table – Binational Drought Science Conference – March 26-27, 2009, San Diego, California

On March 26-27, 2009, the U.S./Mexican Border State Governors are hosting a conference in San Diego, California. The purpose of the conference is to discuss drought issues in and along the binational border region. Proposed conference topics include: (1) Hydroclimate of the U.S. Southwest and Mexican Northwest; (2) Drought information for decision-making; (3) Climate and drought forecasting; (4) Climate change considerations; and (5) Border-area drought

mitigation activities. A copy of the conference flyer and registration form has been included in the Board folder.

Imperial Irrigation District's Proposal to Rename the Drop-2 Reservoir after the late Mr. Warren H. Brock

I received a letter from Mr. James C. Hanks, President of the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) Board of Directors, regarding IID's request that Reclamation rename the Drop-2 Reservoir facility to honor the late Warren H. Brock. The late Mr. Brock was a prominent farmer and resident of the Imperial Valley and was a driving force behind the development of the "Brock Research Experimental Farm," that was subleased from the IID under an agreement that began in 1958. IID is requesting the support of stakeholders involved in the reservoir project for renaming the Drop-2 facility after Mr. Brock. A copy of the IID Board's letter requesting support for the renaming of reservoir has been included in the Board folder.

Basin States Discussions

Basin States Letter to Reclamation Regarding Interest in Developing and Implementing a Joint Colorado River Basin Water Supply Study Proposal

As has been reported at previous Board meetings, representatives of the Basin states and others have been meeting to develop a discussion document that identifies the projects and programs that may have the potential for meeting the current and projected water supplies throughout the Colorado River Basin. This information would be used to refine options and develop strategies for augmentation opportunities to meet future demands. As you may recall, in late-March 2008, the Basin states submitted a report to the Secretary of the Interior entitled, "Study of Long-Term Augmentation Options for Water Supply of the Colorado River System." Toward this end, the Basin have developed a draft letter to Reclamation Regional Directors Walkoviak and Gray (Upper and Lower Colorado Regions, respectively) that requests Reclamation's participation and cooperation in developing a study evaluating the current and projected water supply and demand throughout the Basin and its service areas. The Basin states expect that this study would refine strategies that, if implemented, could provide an additional one million acre-feet of new water annually for use within the Colorado River Basin.

The draft letter states that the Basin states would be willing to provide significant resources to assist in the development and completion of the proposed study. These resources include cost-sharing, as well as the sharing of extensive data, information, and pertinent models that could be included in the proposed study.

In closing, I am requesting that the Board authorize me to work with the other Basin states in finalizing the letter for transmittal to the two regional directors. A copy of the draft letter has been included in the Board folder, and a copy of the final letter, dated February 10th, has been included in the Board handout materials.

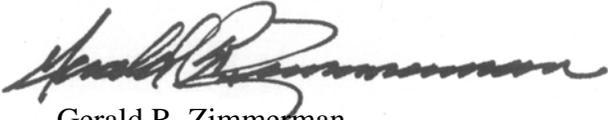
Basin States Discussion Document concerning Binational Water Management – December 17, 2008

As has been reported at previous Board meetings, representatives of the Colorado River Basin states have developed a discussion document that identifies the projects and programs that may have binational interest in the United States and Mexico in augmenting the water supplies of the Colorado River. On December 17, 2008, representatives of the Basin states approved transmittal of the discussion document to IBWC's American Section Commissioner, Mr. Bill Ruth. Copies of the transmittal letter and accompanying discussion document were originally included in the January Board folder materials.

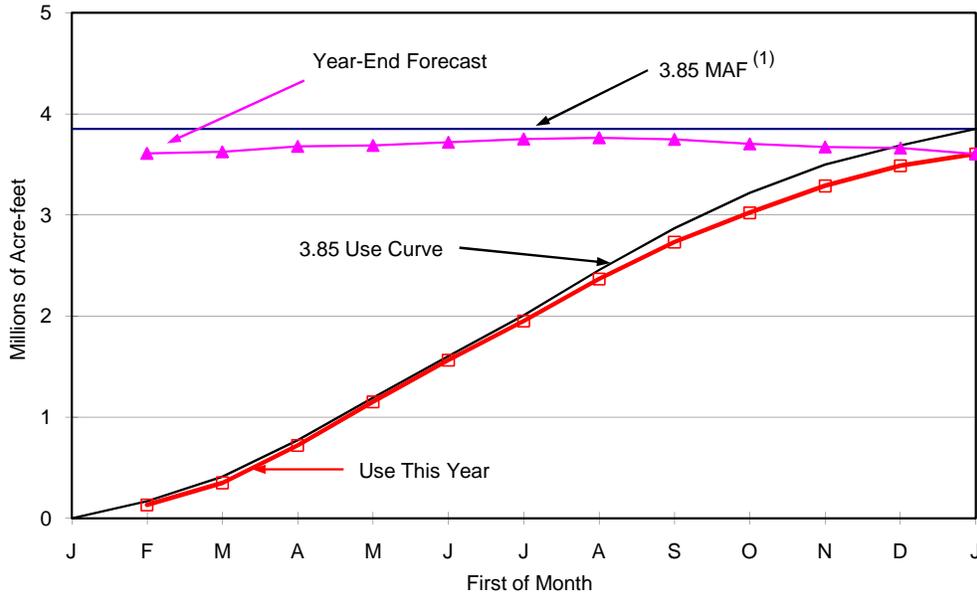
Commissioner Ruth has shared this discussion document with his counterparts in Mexico. Since the January Board meeting, Mexico has requested a consultation meeting with the federal representatives, IBWC and Reclamation, on the Basin discussion document. That consultation meeting will be held on February 13th. It is anticipated that during this consultation meeting the process for continuing the binational discussions on the Basin states discussion document and in identifying projects that may have binational interest in pursuing will be established.

Sonoran Institute's Adopt-The-River Program and Restoration in the Colorado River Delta, Mexico

You may be aware that I recently attended a tour of Mexican agricultural and water use facilities in Mexico as a part of the ongoing IBWC binational negotiating process. On the tour, the group visited several ongoing small-scale habitat restoration projects along the Lower Colorado River in Mexico. In fact, one of the sites visited was one of the restoration projects funded last year by the Six Agency Committee (i.e., the Laguna Grande Colorado River Mainstem Project – 10 acres). I have included, in the Board folder, a brief flyer from the Sonoran Institute describing its "Adopt-The-River" program, focusing on projects in the Colorado River Biosphere in Mexico. Additionally, a copy of a table describing the status of eight ongoing habitat restoration projects has been included in the Board folder.


Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director

**FIGURE 1
2008 YEAR-END COLORADO RIVER WATER USE
BY THE CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES**



Forecast of Colorado River Water Use by the California Agricultural Agencies (Millions of Acre-feet)			
Month	Use as of First of Month	Forecast of Year End Use	Forecast of Unused Water (1)
Jan	0.000	-----	-----
Feb	0.134	3.610	0.024
Mar	0.352	3.626	0.008
Apr	0.722	3.680	-0.047
May	1.154	3.688	-0.054
Jun	1.566	3.720	-0.087
Jul	1.951	3.753	-0.120
Aug	2.368	3.765	-0.131
Sep	2.732	3.749	-0.115
Oct	3.023	3.704	-0.071
Nov	3.288	3.673	-0.040
Dec	3.487	3.663	-0.030
Jan	3.604	3.604	0.030

(1) The forecast of unused water is based on the availability of 3.634 MAF under the first three priorities of the water delivery contracts. This accounts for the 89,000 af of conserved water available to MWD under the 1988 IID-MWD Conservation agreement and the 1989 IID-MWD-CVWD-PVID Agreement as amended; 50,000 af of conserved water available to SDCWA under the IID-SDCWA Transfer agreement as amended; 27,697 af of conserved water available to SDCWA and MWD as a result of the Coachella Canal Lining Project; 8,898 af of water available to SDCWA and MWD as a result of the All-American Canal Lining Project; 14,500 af of water IID and CVWD are forbearing to permit the Secretary of the Interior to satisfy a portion of Indian and miscellaneous present perfected rights use; and 20,289 af of water IID and CVWD are forbearing to payback Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement Exhibit C and 2007 overruns. As USBR is charging disputed uses by Yuma island pumpers to Priority 2 the amount of unused water has been reduced by those uses - 6060 af. The CRB does not concur with USBR's viewpoint on this matter.